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BEDWELLTY URBAN



DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Reports of the
Medical Officer of Health

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1961.

HEALTH
2-OCT 62
G.B. 60

BEDWELLY URBAN



DISTRICT COUNCIL

**The Annual Reports of the
Medical Officer of Health**

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1961.

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1961 - 1962

Chairman - Councillor E. Johns, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor T. I. Davies

MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs. H. Baker	Councillor W. Hardacre
" I. J. Bowen	" E. G. Hodges
" R. R. Bryant	" K. Meade
" P. Bullen, D.F.C.	" R. J. Nash
" E. J. Butler	" W. E. Park, B.A.
" J. Coleman	" F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
" W. D. Cole	" J. Salway
" T. I. Davies	" G. H. Thomas
" B. Gibbs	" J. D. Turner
" G. H. Hawker	" F. J. Walters, B.A.

Councillor S. J. Williams.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor E. G. Hodges

Vice-Chairman - Councillor W. Hardacre

Councillor I. J. Bowen	Councillor B. Gibbs
" R. R. Bryant	" K. Meade
" J. Coleman	" F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
" W. D. Cole	" J. Salway
" D. Davies	" G. H. Thomas
" T. I. Davies	" J. D. Turner

Clerk to the Council - D. Hilton Lewis, Esq.,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. Richard Hoey, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	A. M. Coleman, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health Inspector	E. J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector ...	I. C. Thomas, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Rodent Operator	C. Shelton
Student Public Health Inspector ...	G. Gane
Mortuary & Post Mortem Attendant (Part-Time)	E. Jones
Clerk	K. Rees

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1961

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	7,353
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	30,970
(Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	28,826
(Census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	27,336
Estimated Population for Birth & Death Rates 1961	...	...	...	...	...	27,460
Number of Inhabited Houses (31/12/61)	...	...	...	...	...	7,278
Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	3.8
Rateable Value 1961	...	...	...	...	...	£214,312
Product of Penny Rate 1961	...	...	...	...	...	£810
Number of Births	...	...	...	...	...	494
Net Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	17.9
Number of Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Deaths of Residents	...	...	...	...	...	322
Net Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Number of Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	20
Of these there were Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Infantile Mortality, per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	40.5
Number of Women Dying from Childbirth	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Deaths from all forms of Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Deaths from all forms of Measles	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	121
Number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	51

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
1951	577	394
1952	563	300
1953	554	333
1954	534	327
1955	492	319
1956	537	313
1957	527	332
1958	500	285
1959	463	304
1960	499	296
1961	494	322

Public Health Department,

Municipal Offices,

Aberbargoed,

Bargoed, Glam.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

The Problem of Alcohol

When it comes to discussing one's own personality the rules of breeding, modesty and etiquette all indicate that it is bad mannered to say anything of importance except in a biography when one is very old or dead. Of course what is important to some is not important to others - say the conventional chatter of the cocktail party or the discussion of philosophical fundamentals. What is important to one group of people is trivial to others.

For those who may call me immodest or an exhibitionist I can only reply that my subject is relatively new as regards the British Public Health Service, topical in that the time has come for action under the Mental Treatment Act and that I am the only Medical Officer of Health who is, or has been, an alcoholic who is capable of putting it across in such a way that it will eventually lead to necessary legislation to help other sufferers from this disease to recover more quickly and more easily, I hope, than I have done, and if I do not avail myself of this opportunity when the time is ripe I may lose it altogether.

The first important question is "What is an Alcoholic?" All standard medical text books I have read state that it is a person who cannot live without alcohol. As the disease is progressive and every alcoholic has heard of this definition, and at some stage or other has gone on the "Water Waggon" for short periods (particularly when funds are low) to prove that he is not an alcoholic, though it is fundamentally true before treatment is undergone, it tends to be misleading.

The A.A. pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?" gives twelve questions, and if they are answered honestly a person having difficulty will know that he or she is an alcoholic before hitting "Rock Bottom", and may thus be able to avoid institutional treatment altogether. Joining an A.A. group is one method of treatment which is harmful to nobody and the only thing I disagree with in the A.A. literature is that a recovered alcoholic is always an alcoholic. Admittedly if he drinks again his symptoms will return, but once cured the stigma of being an alcoholic should apply to nobody. When a person is cured is a matter for the psychiatrist to decide and varies from person to person and, of course, alcoholism is often superimposed on some other form of mental illness. The pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?" is circulated herewith

and I can vouch for its uncanny accuracy.

There are two kinds of alcoholic - the person who, when first introduced to drink, takes violently to it, most frequently at the beginning of his career, and the more chronic drinker who for many years has had no great difficulty, finds that in middle age his increasing demand for alcohol cannot be sustained by his ageing body and tends to crack under the strain of increasing responsibility acquired by seniority together with the necessary income.

There can be no doubt that all social workers have tended to ignore alcoholism largely in the past. The wife of the poorer class alcoholic, living in her poverty-stricken surroundings prefers the upbraiding by the lady health visitor for being an incompetent slut to a beating from her husband, and she stands helplessly by, nagging pitifully and sees the family housekeeping money, dole, national assistance and everything else that can be laid hands upon go down the drain in drink. In this locality the "scrumpy" drinkers are the biggest problem, and I can only suggest that a new town is built in the Hebrides or one of our untenanted islands where families can be rehabilitated willy-nilly. Most of those who recover and join the A.A. are those who have the most to lose, i.e. beer and spirit drinkers. The recovery rate of such people is fifty per cent following the first attempt, twenty-five per cent following the second or subsequent attempts and twenty-five per cent commit suicide or find their way into institutions. From what I have seen on television, a fair proportion of present day tramps are alcoholics who remain permanently at "Rock Bottom", spending all the money they acquire on drink. Of course, many intelligent alcoholics who have not such enlightened employers as myself have come down in the world considerably as the result of their disability. Let us hope more time and tolerance will be given to top people in future who make the effort. The prolonged education and training of many such people could be a severe loss to the nation at times of full employment.

Whereas the acquisition of other drug addictions must be achieved in face of criminal law and intermittent supplies of the illicit substances at great cost; after all, look at the temptation which alcoholics must continually endure. Careers like the Regular Army, anyway in my young days, were impossible for teetotallers. Men are picked for promotion for their ability to mix in bars, lounges and at parties. High pressure advertising on the I.T.V. programme is reinforced by almost every straight play having a drinking session somewhere in its script (nice easy going for actors, playwrights and producers). Every few yards huge placards present foaming pints of beer and every other form of alcoholic beverage - I have counted over forty on the fifteen miles between Blackwood and Newport excluding signs on pubs and clubs - and still some people are callous and idiotic enough to try and force drinks on recovering alcoholics, but I cannot say that it has happened much to me, but I know it has happened in other cases. Another small point is that wives must stop nagging once hubby goes "dry" or he may relapse as we saw in the play "Come back Little Sheba" recently. When one such drink is taken it is almost invariably followed by another, then resistance collapses and the patient is back where he was when he gave up drinking before. The phenomenon is known as "a skid".

There is, of course, no easy treatment for alcoholism. The cardinal factor is that the patient must give up drinking entirely, absolutely and permanently and resign himself from the start to adjust himself to a completely new mode of living and he must have outside help. Joining an A.A. group may be all the help that some people require, otherwise treatment by a psychiatrist is essential.

He may give the drug Apomorphine to cause nausea or vomiting in the early stages and form a temporary distaste for alcohol known as "Aversion Therapy". "Antabuse" is a proprietary tablet which one takes in the morning before going to the office. If the patient then takes a drink, impurities are released in the blood which causes him to be taken, unconscious, to hospital. It is mostly used by business men who meet their pals in the lunch hour. Then group and individual psychotherapy and tranquillizers are also extremely useful and the latter form quite a fair substitute for alcohol if chosen carefully by the psychiatrist. It is the het-up man, of course, who uses alcohol as a tranquillizer, who is heading for the big breakdown, the relief enjoyed leading to further irritability and a vicious circle. I understand that insulin is now also used and helps quite well in some cases, but above all the patient must be determined to give up drinking completely and for ever.

Alcoholics have been advised by doctors to cut their drinking down which is the completely wrong advice to give, and I have been told of a case who was admitted to a psychiatric unit in a military hospital and no proper advice was even given by the psychiatrist in charge. The answer is to cut it right out and sooner or later the world will become a pleasant place again, the patient acquiring far more happiness and satisfaction from abstinence than he ever knew when drinking. He or she once more should be respected, loved and admired and enjoy a variety of interesting activities, before dull and meaningless, and, whether or not we include religion, all the things in life that matter most should be reacquired within a twelve-month.

On going to press it has been announced that each Regional Board should have at least one clinic for the treatment of alcoholics.

Of course special residential treatment is desirable with spacious grounds and wards free of severely disturbed general psychiatric cases; also one living room without a radio or television is most desirable. The afternoon racing at 100 decibels from a harsh amplifier does not make those first two ghastly months any pleasanter, but as I have said before, further legislation will be necessary to bring the alcoholic in for treatment before his job is lost, his home broken up, he becomes unemployable, he is in trouble with the police over drunken driving or a bad accident, or any other serious crime he may commit owing to "blackouts" or the usual mental changes and the necessity to find the means to keep drinking.

The mental changes are that a person who may be lively and talented becomes dull, apathetic and irritable. He will tell any lies to obtain money and the opportunity for drinking, his work becomes boring and promises worthless. He has no insight into his pitiful condition or the harm he is causing to his family and others by his carelessness and neglect. Above all he will not admit that he is an alcoholic, becomes aggressive if approached on the subject and will not submit to treatment until forced to do so. This is the problem to be solved and something else besides clinics will be needed for the problem to be tackled with any degree of seriousness. After all, it is only an illness rather different from other disease, and to treat and prevent illness as far as possible is the solemn duty of a nation committed to a National Health Service.

I am, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. HOEY

Medical Officer of Health

B I R T H S 1 9 6 1

The births registered during the year:

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	
Legitimate	265	217	
Illegitimate	5	7	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	<u>270</u>	<u>224</u>	
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	17.9
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate	...	...	2.4
Stillbirths ...	...	...	17
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	33.2
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	511

D E A T H S 1 9 6 1

No. of deaths during year ... 322
The death rate after correction of inward and outward transfers 11.7

Death rate for the previous years may be compared:

<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
11.68	11.55	11.34	11.16	11.85	10.15	10.83	10.5	11.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
1 - 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2 - 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3 - 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total under 1 month								<u>13</u>

1 - 3 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3 - 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
6 - 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
9 - 12 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total								<u>7</u>

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	40.5
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Legitimate			43.0
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate			NIL
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			
(first 4 weeks)	...	...	26.3

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE

NIL

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Per 1,000 births (Live and Still):

Bedwellty	...	...	...	...	NIL
Monmouth County	...	...	...	...	0.98

CAUSES OF DEATH 1961

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-
Measles	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Parasite Disease	-	-
Cancer (Stomach)	1	4
Cancer (Lung)	10	-
Cancer (Breast)	-	3
Cancer (Uterus)	-	2
Cancer (Other Sites)	16	13
Leukaemia	-	2
Diabetes	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	23	18
Coronary Disease - Angina	33	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	8
Other Heart Diseases	20	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	5
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	7	3
Bronchitis	16	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	10	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
Congenital Malformations	3	5
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	17	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
Other Accidents	6	3
Suicide	1	-
TOTALS	180	142

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR

CAUSE	under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3 - 4 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total
PREMATURITY	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
PNEUMONIA	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	4
CIRCULATORY DISEASES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
GASTRO ENTERITIS	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
BRONCHITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
CONVULSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
VIOLENCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
OTHER CAUSES	4	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	9
TOTAL	10	1	1	1	1	2	4	0	20

TUBERCULOSIS

Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis

MALES

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Railway Fireman	1	-
Colliery Repairer	1	-
School Age	2	-
Labourer	1	-
Shopkeeper	1	-
Unknown	1	-

FEMALES

Housewife	3	-
Under School Age	1	-

HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM TREATMENT

OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged
Glan Ely	1	1	1	-
S. Wales San., Talgarth	1	2	-	-
Gelligaer Hospital	2	5	-	-
Cefn Mably	1	1	-	-
Sully Hospital	2	7	-	-
TOTAL	7	16	1	-

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases	Non-Pulmonary Cases
January	-	-
February	1	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
July	1	-
August	2	-
September	2	-
October	2	-
November	2	-
December	1	-
	11	0

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS
FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE
LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1952	38	9
1953	34	11
1954	37	2
1955	38	3
1956	26	3
1957	26	1
1958	34	9
1959	14	10
1960	28	3
1961	12	2

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

The following Table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during 1961.

Age Period in Years	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 5	1	1	2	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
6 - 14	1	-	1	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
15 - 24	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
25 - 44	3	2	5	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
45 - 64	2	1	3	-	-	0	1	-	1	-	-	0
65 and over	-	-	0	-	-	0	1	-	1	-	-	0
Total	7	4	11	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

IN THE PAST 12 YEARS

Year	AGE GROUP		
	1 - 5 Yrs	6 - 15 Yrs	16 & over
1950	2	1	29
1951	3	4	29
1952	1	1	36
1953	3	4	25
1954	3	2	32
1955	-	4	34
1956	1	7	18
1957	2	4	20
1958	1	5	19
1959	3	1	10
1960	4	1	23
1961	2	1	8

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

REGISTRATION WARDS AND QUARTERS DURING 1961

Notifiable Disease	Totals	Phillips-town	New Tredegar	Aber-Bar-Goed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Black-wood	Argoed	Mark-Ham	Holly-Bush	QUARTERS
Whooping Cough	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Para Typhoid	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Salmonella Infection	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	300	15	55	100	8	5	76	7	33	1	2 213 64 19
Total	310	16	55	101	10	5	81	7	34	1	2 219 70 19

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Public Health Department,

(Telephone: Bargoed 2137)

Municipal Offices,

Aberbargoed,

Bargoed, Glam.

21st August, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report
on the work done in the Department for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

.....

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

NOTICES SERVED

1. Sections 92 - 93 (Abatement of Nuisance, Repairs to Property)

Informal Notices	...	...	122
Abatement Notices	...	...	116

2. Section 83 (Notice to Cleanse Filthy Premises) 4

3. Section 138 (Provision of Sufficient Water Supply to House) ... 1

4. Section 39 (Works re Drainage of Building)... .. 2

5. Section 47 (Replacement of Closets by Water Closets) 3

6. Section 44 (Provision of W.C.)... .. 1

7. Section 27 (i), Public Health Act, 1961 (Ruinous or Dilapidated
Building or Structure) 1

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In Clearance Areas

1. Houses unfit for Human Habitation
2. Houses included by Reason of bad arrangement
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.

Houses Demolished	DISPLACED	
	Persons	Families
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
3	5	2
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS

4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.
5. Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts
7. Unfit houses included in unfitness orders

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

8. Under Sections 16(4), 17(1), and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957.
9. Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957.
10. Parts of building closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

11. After informal action by Local Authority

12. After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957.

13. Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957.

By Owner	By L.A.
39	-
95	4
-	-
-	-

D. HOUSES DEALT WITH FOR DEMOLITION OR CLOSURE

The supplementary programme reported upon in July 1960, has been proceeded with and at the end of the year, the position was:-

(a) Houses which are now under Demolition or Closing Orders

28a, 30a, 32a, Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog.
1, 3, 5, High Street, Rengam.
1, 2, 3, Brewery Cottages, Fleur-de-lys.
60/61, 62, 80, Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lys.
1, Park View, Fleur-de-lys (part).
Round House, Argoed.
Lilac Cottage, Fair Oak, Argoed.
Fair Oak Farm, Argoed (part).
1 & 2, Abernantyfelin Cottages, Markham.

..... 18 Houses.

(b) Under Consideration

3, Berllangron Cottages, Blackwood.
20, Island Street, Argoed.

(c) Houses which have been repaired and reconditioned as a result of undertakings.

27, 27a, Commercial Street, New Tredegar.
17, Ivor Street, Fleur-de-lys.

(d) Houses which have yet to be dealt with and where no action has been taken to date

1, 2, School Street, Bedwellty.
1, 2, Trelyn Cottages, Fleur-de-lys.
20, 21, 22, Castle Street, Fleur-de-lys.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Rock Terrace, Blackwood.
11, Island Street, Argoed.

(e) In addition to the houses listed in a, b, c, d, above, a supplementary list has been dealt with including:-

14, Elliot Street, New Tredegar. (Tenants re-housed
by Council).
93, 94, Lower Road, New Tredegar.
19, Island Street, Argoed. (Tenant re-housed by
Council).
1, Newport Road, Hollybush. (May be subject to
reconstruction into
flats).
42, Fair View, Pengam.

To summarise the above information in respect of
Slum Clearance re-housing of families:-

Already re-housed (in (e) above)	2
To be re-housed from property already dealt with	20
To be re-housed (estimated) from remainder of programme	13
Total	35 ^c

In the above table, 80, Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lys and 1, Park View, Fleur-de-lys have been excluded.

HOUSING

(a) Repair of Private Houses

Of the 138 houses repaired, about half were done as a result of informal action and the remainder by formal action resulting in 16 cases being taken to Police Court. The Magistrates made Nuisance Orders in 4 instances where the Order was not complied with and the work was done in default by local contractors, costs being recovered from the owners by the Council. This latter action has had a salutary effect on some owners and whilst the building repair labour position is sometimes not helpful to owners, it is felt that the time lapsing between first notification of repairs to an owner and the actual Court proceedings is by reason of necessary legal procedure quite adequate for work to be completed.

Where urgent repair works are necessary, the Council have authorised a quicker procedure under the Public Health Act 1961 which came into operation towards the end of the year.

A foreseeable problem in the future is that of major repair of rows of houses which are owned by persons who apparently have insufficient financial means of carrying out the work. Some of these properties are subject to "first aid" repairs at the present time.

The Council, at the end of the year, decided to purchase several properties of low standard of repair in one street, owned by a person with no financial means to carry out works. The action was regarded as one of first aid and a protection against adjoining properties deteriorating on dereliction of these houses should they become subject to closure orders in lieu of demolition orders. In making decision in this matter, regard has to be paid to a balance sheet debited on one side by nominal cost of the houses, plus repairs, and credited by (1) the cost of providing new housing accommodation for tenants to the detriment of a loaded waiting list of applicants for Council houses (2) the preservation of adjoining houses, and (3) the effective repair and maintenance of the property.

(b) Improvement of Houses

The improvement of houses under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 by Standard Grant or Discretionary Grant is proceeding very slowly, and the original burst of applications on the coming into operation of the Grant scheme has subsided into a trickle which averages a few per month, almost exclusively from owner-occupiers. During the year the Council invited the National Coal Board to implement the grant works in respect of their houses, but to date no practical application had commenced, and it appears that until there is a higher statutory enforceable standard of fitness of houses which included provision of bathrooms and hot water, the improvement will continue at this slow crawl dependant on the financial resources of owner-occupiers, tenanted houses being left in a relatively sub-standard condition.

It is interesting to note that the average cost of provision of the five amenities required by the Standard Grant (bath in bathroom, hot water supply, food store, wash hand basin, internal W.C.) amounts to a figure, in this area, of about £300 - within the anticipated figure of the Act which allows a grant of half the expenditure up to £155 for all such amenities.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is one small Common Lodging House in the Blackwood Ward and this has been mainly used for short periods. The Council refused to re-register the keeper in respect of this house and at the time of making this report the premises have been vacated.

CINEMAS

The two cinemas in the area were inspected on several occasions. Two letters were sent, calling the attention of the Management to defects in the sanitary accommodation.

OTHER PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

Miners' Welfare Institutes and Billiard Halls are inspected mainly for adequacy and condition of sanitary accommodation, whilst at the Dance Halls attention is also paid to food hygiene requirements where refreshments are provided.

WATER SUPPLY

The Rhymney Valley portion of the Area is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board and the water supply for the Sirhowy Valley is purchased from the Tredegar Urban District Council.

Routine sampling of both supplies has been carried out on frequent occasions.

No of Samples taken in

- | | | |
|--------------------|------|---|
| (a) Rhymney Valley | - 51 | (9 showed slight contamination
4 showed heavy contamination) |
| (b) Sirhowy Valley | - 41 | (1 showed slight contamination) |

The bacterial count in some of the samples was due to an intermittent lapse of chlorination at the water works. This has now been remedied and a double chlorination system installed. There has also been some turbidity in the water, particularly after heavy rains. This, too, is being dealt with by the Rhymney Valley Water Board by the installation of new filtration plant.

Chemically, the water is satisfactory, two chemical samples having been taken, and there is no evidence of plumbosolvency.

Except for one or two outlying dwellings, all houses are on the public supply, direct to the houses.

LITTER ACT 1958

Two successful prosecutions were taken against persons depositing litter in back lanes.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There is no licensed pet shop in this area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION - CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

The Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide candle at the Aberbargoed Collecting Point have been in use during the year and below are the figures of results.

	<u>Rainfall in inches</u>	<u>Tons per sq. mile</u>
January	6.08	18.96
February	3.41	15.30
March	0.53	2.33
April	7.34	23.58
May	1.19	9.55
June	1.85	11.22
July	1.5	9.17
August	0.16	14.58
September	4.18	19.58
October	6.93	23.41
November	2.99	18.30
December	4.65	18.82

The average deposit during 1959 was 19.8 tons per square mile, in 1960, 18.5, whilst last year, it was 15.4.

The type of coal mostly used for domestic purposes in the area is of a low volatile content and this type of fuel comes within the definition of "authorised fuel" under the Act. The present type of grate in the houses burns this coal and therefore it would appear that expense on adaptations of fireplaces is unnecessary, as would be the case if a smoke control area was made.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 - 59

(a) Factories Acts 1937 - 1962

Routine inspections under the Factories Acts have been made of all factory premises (32) in the area.

No. of factories where mechanical power is used (excluding butchers' preparation rooms).	29
Non-mechanical factories	3
No. of outworkers employed in area ...	NIL
Notices served	4
In respect of cleaning and redecorating	3
In respect of provision of sanitary accommodation	1

(b) Business carried on at the factories and the approximate number of employees

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of Employees
Electrical Equipment	1	80
Textile Manufactures	2	518
Electricity Generation	1	180
Railway Wagon Repairs	1	4
Building Operations	5	38
Garages	9	102
Sawmills	1	1
Remploy	1	60
Upholstery	1	12
Printing	2	3
Shoe Repairing	1	1
Leather Goods	1	6
Metalwork	1	13
Radio and Television Repair	1	2
Carpentry	2	4
Cooked Meat Products	1	11
Concrete Products	1	3

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	6	1	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	50	3	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	32	56	4	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Number of Cases in which defects
were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7)					
(A) Insuff- icient	-	-	-	-	-
(B) Unsuitable or Defect- ive	2	2	-	-	-
(C) Not separ- ate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

Outworkers (Section 110 - 111)

There is no industry in the Area employing
outworkers.

3. Means of Escape in case of Fire

Duties under this section have been transferred
to Mon. County Fire Service.

RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Regular surveys as required by the above Act have been carried out by the Rodent Operator. Disinfestation of rats and mice has been carried out at private and business premises. In the latter case a charge is made on responsible persons for time and materials used.

No. of treatments of business premises	55
No. of treatments of private dwellings	193
No. of treatments of L.A. properties	49
No. of Surveys under the Act	59

Refuse tips have been examined regularly and baited when necessary.

In addition to this work, the six-monthly sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out. No major infestation was detected.

SHOPS ACT 1950

Hours of closing and other matters requiring attention under the above Act are dealt with by the department.

All shops were visited at least once during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 Sec. 50

Burial or Cremation of the Dead

Where no arrangements have been made for the disposal of a body, the Local Authority carries out the duty. Expenses may be recovered from a near relative or from the estate of the deceased.

Two persons, one from Blackwood and the other from Fleur-de-lys, were buried under these conditions.

Two undertakers - one in each valley - are under contract to remove the body of any person found dead on a highway, street or public place, to the Public Mortuary. There was no occasion to require this service.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

46 autopsies were carried out during the year.

The cases were from:-

Phillipstown	7
New Tredegar	14
Aberbargoed	2
Cefn Fforest	1
Pengam & Fleur-de-lys	6
Blackwood	2
Argoed	2
Outside Area	12

A fee of two guineas is paid by the Coroner on each occasion for the cleaning of the post mortem room. A part-time attendant is employed.

RENT ACT 1957

Certificates of Disrepair

Since the first year of the coming into operation of this Act when there were 53 applications made by tenants for certificate of disrepair to secure abatement of rent, there has been negligible use made of the provisions of this Act. In 1961 not a single application was made.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Routine inspections are made with regard to (a) repairs of an urgent nature (b) cleanliness. These repairs are notified to the Housing Manager.

Except for a few cases, the general standard of cleanliness is quite satisfactory.

No. of inspections made 442

Prospective tenants are visited by your inspectors to ascertain cleanliness and this is also done when there is a transfer of tenancy from one Council house to another.

No. of prospective tenants visited..... 51

No. of transfers inspected 26

No. of vacant Council houses inspected 24

No. of vacant Council houses disinfested .. NIL

I am indebted to Mr. Daynes, Housing Manager, for the following information:-

No. of Council houses at 31/12/61..... 2,102

No. of applications for Council houses (July 1962)

	In Apartments	Others
Aberbargoed	114	40
Argoed	45	23
Blackwood	87	48
Cefn Fforest	61	9
New Tredegar	60	44
Pengam	69	40

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Only a few outlying houses in the Area are not on the water-carriage system which drains into the Rhymney Valley and Sirhowy Valley Trunk Sewers. These sewers have a sea-outfall.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) FOOD SHOPS AND STORES - UNSOUND FOODS

The following foods found unfit for human consumption at food shops and stores, were condemned and destroyed. This food was surrendered by the shopkeepers during regular inspections of the shops.

<u>Meat</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Canned Fish</u>	<u>Tins</u>
Bacon	47 $\frac{1}{4}$	Pilchards	2
Beef	14	Salmon	41
		Sardines	2
<u>Tinned Fruit</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>Cooked Meat</u>	<u>Tins</u>
Apricots	83	Pork Kidney	2
Bilberries	1	Chopped Pork	5
Fruit Salad	4	Chopped Ham	38
Grapefruit	28	Luncheon Meat	2
Oranges	8	Corned Beef	70
Peaches	130	Pork Luncheon	47
Pears	171	Cooked Ham	74
Pineapples	41	Stewed Steak	14
Plums	4	Minced Beef Loaf	12
Prunes	66	Pork Roll	15
Strawberries	42	Pork Brawn	1
Blackcurrants	4	Jellied Veal	49
		Chicken	4
		Corned Mutton	5
		Steak & Kidney Pudding	9
		Casserole Meat	17
		Irish Stew	6
		Spam	4
		Pork Shoulder	9
		Carrots	3 tins.
		Tomatoes	427 tins.
		Flour	34 lbs.
		Soup	23 tins.
		Pickles	5 jars.
		Cockles	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ galls.
<u>Other Foods</u>			
Apples	18 lbs.		
Peas	12 tins.		
Butter	14 lbs.		
Milk	28 tins.		
Beans	16 tins.		
Sauerkraut	1 tin.		

By weight the above represents about 1 ton of foodstuffs.

(b) BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND COOKED MEATS PREPARATION ROOMS

All 21 butchers' shops have received attention. Generally, standards of cleanliness and hygiene were found to be satisfactory.

The attention of proprietors of four shops was called to items including:-

- No wash-hand notices in sanitary accommodation.
- Re-stocking of first aid box.
- Re-surfacing of floor of preparation room.
- Replacement of worn sink.

Removal of articles not used in connection with food business from preparation room.

(c) CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

The 13 cafes have been inspected. The majority serve only teas and light refreshment, cooked meals being served at three premises. The exposure of cakes and pastries on counters without protection of glass front pieces is met with on several occasions and this is a serious source of contamination of the foodstuffs by handling and droplet infection. This remark applies to shops as well as to cafes and the item was one of others included in Police Court proceedings against the Manager of a general store. The Magistrates imposed a fine on the manager as the person responsible for the offence against the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(d) ICE CREAM AND ICE CREAM PREMISES

As during previous years, systematic sampling of supplies has been carried out, particularly of ice-cream manufactured in the area. Each supply was sampled on five occasions and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination and grading. Five supplies were "hot mix" and four were "cold mix". The gradings were quite satisfactory and of the total number of samples taken only one was Grade 4 and 32 were Grade 1.

Concurrent with sampling, inspections were carried out at ice-cream premises. It is pleasing to note that over the past two years, of 94 samples taken, only 3 have fallen into Grade 4 class whilst 79% have been Grade 1. In 1961, 6 were Grade 2 and 3 were Grade 3.

Whilst there is no reason for complacency or relaxation of our supervision, it is nevertheless encouraging and pleasurable that the results have been so satisfactory.

GRADING OF SAMPLES							
VENDOR	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	TYPE OF ICE CREAM
A	3	1	1	1	2	-	Cold Mix
B	1	1	1	3	4	1	Cold Mix
C	1	1	1	1	1	1	Heat Treated
D	1	1	1	1	2	-	Heat Treated
E	1	1	1	1	1	-	Cold Mix
F	1	-	-	-	-	-	Cold Mix
G	2	1	1	1	2	-	Heat Treated
H	1	2	1	3	1	-	Heat Treated
I	2	1	1	1	1	-	Heat Treated

(e) SCHOOL CANTEENS

These premises, under the control of the Monmouthshire County Council, have been visited on two occasions during the year. The seventeen canteens were found to be up to a good hygienic standard and this is necessary of course when it is realised that approximately 2000 meals are supplied to children every school day - 40% of the school population.

At some premises there were minor defects and these were notified to the County Architect. Ventilation was noted and as the construction of the canteens - converted classrooms or concrete buildings - does not lend itself to good natural ventilation, it has been suggested that mechanical aids should be installed to prevent the action of condensation on the internal decoration. When such fans have been installed, the problem has been virtually overcome.

Personnel employed are "hygiene-conscious" and show a keen interest in this aspect of their work.

(f) PITHEAD CANTEENS AND FACTORY CANTEENS

Three Pithead and three Factory canteens have been regularly examined. All premises are kept to a satisfactory standard, minor defects being reported and receiving attention forthwith.

(g) FRIED FISH AND CHIP SHOPS

Inspections have been carried out at the eleven premises in the area.

Provision of washing facilities and redecoration of preparation room was requested at two shops.

(h) PUBLIC HOUSES AND CLUBS

The 31 Public Houses and 22 Clubs have been regularly inspected to ascertain compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The majority of the premises are adequately appointed from a hygiene aspect, but it was necessary to remind proprietors of the lack of decoration of bars and conveniences. It is rarely that one sees a chipped glass nowadays - a big improvement over the past years.

(i) MILK SUPPLY

Although licensing of dealers is done by the County Council, milk samples are taken from vendors and from the school supplies. The samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

No. of samples taken 60.

Two samples were not up to standard and on these occasions the vendor and pasteurising firm were notified and explanations requested. Further enquiries were made by Inspectors in the area in which the plant was situated.

(j) MEAT INSPECTION

There is no abattoir in the area.

(k) FOOD POISONING

Four notifications were received and whilst causative organisms were isolated the source of the cases could not be ascertained.

(a) Case 1 (salm. typhi murium) was notified after the patient had been admitted to hospital.

(b) Case 2 was a boy aged 11 years - paratyphoid B and this was again notified after admittance to hospital. Faecal samples of contacts proved negative.

(c) Case 3 (salm. typhi murium) was notified after admittance to hospital. Faecal samples proved one contact as positive, and this contact was given treatment by the family doctor.

(d) Case 4 (salm. brandenburg) was notified after admittance and discharge from hospital. Samples of suspect foods were examined but results were negative.

(1) FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The sampling authority is the Monmouthshire County Council and below is an extract from the report of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department, Mr. R. J. Bullen.

Samples taken: 56 Milk, 39 Other Foods,
5 Ice Cream, 7 Beer.
Total Samples 107.

The Public Analyst certified all samples to be Genuine except for the following:-

- (1) Contrary to the Food and Drugs Act 1955 a sample of milk was deficient in solids not fat but was certified by the Public Analyst to be of abnormal composition. No action was taken.
- (2) Contrary to the Food and Drugs Act 1955 a sample of milk was found at a Markham School to contain a sweet. During transit to the Public Analyst, the sweet dissolved in the milk. The Public Analyst found the milk to be genuine but to contain sucrose which indicated the presence of some substance such as a boiled sweet. Black specks were also present indicating dirt. The attention of the Wholesale Dairy Firm who bottled the milk was drawn to the matter as Legal Proceedings were not considered advisable.

(m) FOOD SHOPS

Food shops, such as grocers, stores, etc. have been visited regularly. On the whole conditions have been up to standard, but in a few cases, there is room for improvement. It appears that the multiplicity of varieties of goods offered by some shops does not lend itself to the hygienic storage and display of foods. Managers have been advised on this matter and in two cases, warnings were given, towards the end of the year, that Police Court Proceedings would be taken if conditions did not appreciably improve.

I should like to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation given by the Members and Officials, and for the keen approach to the work shown by the staff of the Public Health Department.

I am, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector



